

DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

"Seeing with your Fingers"

Braille demonstrations, literature distribution, games, videos, exhibits and more

October 18, 2008

Louisville Free Public Library, Main Library lobby

Sponsor: Lexington Chapter, NFB of KY

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National White Cane Day

October 15, 2008

Louisville, KY

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, local groups will celebrate National White Cane Day with demonstrations of how important white canes and guide dogs are to improving the mobility and safety of people with disabilities.

White Cane Day originates from a 1964 joint resolution of the U.S. Congress that honored the many achievements of blind and visually impaired Americans. This resolution authorizes the President of the United States to proclaim October 15 each year as "White Cane Safety Day." The proclamation emphasizes the significance of the use of the white cane as both a tool to independence and as a visible symbol of a visually impaired person's ability to come and go on his or her own.

The event will be held on Wednesday, October 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fourth Street Live, with street-crossing demonstrations at 12:30 p.m. Those participating include MV Transportation, Inc., TARC, Metro Government, The Greater Louisville Council of the Blind, The Metro Disability Coalition, The American Printing House for the Blind, University of Louisville, Visually Impaired Persons of Louisville (V.I.P.) and other members of the community. Blind and visually impaired citizens will demonstrate how effectively and competently blind citizens can cross a busy intersection with the use of their skills, guide dogs and/or white canes. Dr. Bill Penrod of the University of Louisville School of Education and Human Development will discuss how blind citizens depend on the sound of traffic to alert them it is safe to cross the street.

Members of various organizations will provide information on support products and services that are available to the blind.